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Photo Captioning Essay, Draft 1

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Big Thorn in Korea



The Korean peninsula was divided into two parts, South Korea and North Korea by one line. This line is the Military Demarcation Line established by the Armistice at the end of Korean War on July 27 in 1953. This line is called “Hyujeonseon” in South Korea. This line is big symbol of Koran War. In addition, the length of the Military Demarcation line is about 250-kilo, and this line is consists of thick chains like this picture. There are no South Koreans who live in this area, except for soldiers.

In 2003, I went to Unification Observatory, Tongil Tower, where to be able to see the border between South Korea and North Korea in Gangwon-do, the nearest state from the North Korea. In order to see the part of the result of Korean War, I went to this place with pious attitude. On my way, I saw various wreckage of Korean War. Some buildings were ruined, and the train was stopped. Moreover, there were still many fragments of tanks and shells near the road. The most interesting scene was when I saw the Military Demarcation Line. Unlike my expectation, this place was clam and seems same as other countryside; however, the moment I saw the Military Demarcation Line, my feeling is changed. Between this line, South and North Korean soldiers stood off each other, and looked with wariness. Furthermore, Near to the Military Demarcation Line, there are many warning sign posts of mines. As a result of these two scenes, a tense atmosphere could be felt in this place.

While I saw the Military Demarcation Line, I had two feelings. First of all, although South Korean and North Korean soldiers are the same ethnic group race, they were on strict guard each other in this line; even North Korean soldiers killed South Korean ones by using ax in 1976. I was really sad about the fact that this situation is a fact of life. Another thought was that ironically this place was very beautiful. After making this line, this place was ruined, but 60 years later this place has picturesque scenery. Hence, the uncontaminated environment and various kinds of wild animals existed. I stayed here for 30 minutes, but soon due to the limited time I had to get out this beautiful and horrible place, even though this place is my country. The Military Demarcation Line is made because of two different ideologies, democracy in South Korea and communism in North Korea. This line means that the war is not finished. In other words, in the near future, South and North Korea may face war like Korean War again. While here is no sound of gun fire, after 60 years this line still stuck in South Koreans mind.